

Order Clearance Committee Meeting 378
POLICY DOC. FILE

May 10, 1943 Item 2 pp 5-146 NO.
CLASS NO.

535.104
Solvents
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Order 4-41, as amended - Amendment 1 - Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Solvents

Industry Division: Chemicals Division

The Division makes the following comments concerning the proposed amendment to Order 4-41:

At the present time there is an ample supply of chlorine to allow the producers of chlorinated hydrocarbon solvents to run at capacity. Since productive capacity has increased during the past year for ethylene dichloride, trichloroethylene and carbon tetrachloride, it has been possible to build a satisfactory stockpile. It is now possible and desirable to allow greater quantities for civilian purposes than are allowed under the terms of this Order.

It is proposed accordingly to amend the Order to provide that persons wishing the solvents for uses entitled to a B-2 rating may receive 100% (instead of 50%) of base period consumption, and that those wishing carbon tetrachloride may receive 150% (instead of 100%) of base period consumption.

Messrs. Lucey and Finley explained that the proposed relaxation of the Order is preferable to its complete revocation since the demand-supply situation for chlorine, which has eased during the past two months, may become critical again. Because the chlorine industry lacks storage facilities for further inventories, it will have to shut down if no other outlets for these products are provided. Such a shut down is not desirable because of the time required for resumption of production. There have been about four cycles of stringency to surplus since the Order became effective. Indirectly, chlorine is stored by the stockpiling of the solvents. Furthermore, control should certainly be retained over the dry cleaning industry. Such control became effective October 16, 1941, and was developed with considerable difficulty. If all restrictions are removed, the industry will probably use too much carbon tetrachloride, the controls will have to be reinstated, and the effect of the Division's

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educational campaign will have been lost. Mr. Lucey stated that no persons can start in the dry cleaning business unless they have military contracts. About 15 to 20 percent of the dry cleaning is done with carbon tetrachloride, and the balance with less critical petroleum solvents.

Mr. Ince felt that shortages of labor and equipment would prevent dry cleaners from using excessive quantities of the solvents and that if an Order can be eliminated, thus saving paper work, it should be done.

Mr. Lucey said he would not object to revocation of the Order if the Committee could assure the prompt issuance of a new Order if it was required, though he preferred that the Order remain in force. Mr. Finley admitted that the type of Order is outmoded and that if a new Order were drafted it would probably take a different form.

Messrs. Lucey and Finley left the meeting at this point.

Mr. Falker felt it would be confusing to the industry if the Order were revoked and subsequently reinstated.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) A recommendation be transmitted to the Division that consideration be given to revocation of the Order.
- (b) If the Division insists, however, on retention of the Order, the proposed amendment be approved, subject to the following revision:
 - 1. Elimination of the requirement for filing Form IT-127.
 - 2. Insertion of the standard appeals clause.

Mr. Falker dissented.